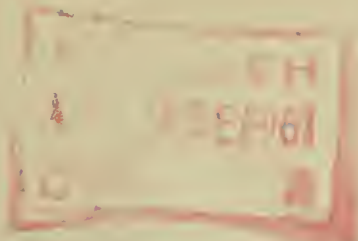


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~~1. Dr. H. H. H. H.~~
~~2. Mr. H. H. H. H.~~
~~3. Miss H. H. H. H.~~

WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

~~3. Miss H. H. H. H.~~
~~4. Miss Cook~~
5. Library - S. Row

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1960





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WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1960.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1960.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 10,500 which was an increase of 80 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 155 which was an increase of 6 over that of the previous year and the crude birth rate was accordingly 14.76; this becomes 15.50 after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and was lower than that of 17.1 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

Only one stillbirth was registered and the rate of 6.41 per 1,000 total (live and still) births compares very favourably with that of 19.7 for England and Wales which has remained more or less stationary for thirty years.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Two infant deaths were registered due to:-

- (1) Congenital cardiac abnormality - 3 months
- (2) Prematurity - 2 days

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 12.90 which also compares favourably with that of 26.7 for England and Wales.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

It is again gratifying to record that this rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion, which is a tribute to modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 167, i.e. 8 less than the previous year and the crude death rate was 15.90; that this crude rate is high is due to the fact that Hothfield Chronic Sick Hospital is within the District, in which the mortality rate is naturally much higher and from which deaths are assigned to the District when a patient has been resident for more than six months; the Registrar General's Comparability Factor takes this into account and after this adjustment, the rate becomes 10.49 and was lower than that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

As should be expected, the chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, these being the natural ultimate causes of death; of these there were 90, one more than

the previous year.

An exception, however, is Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart which claims many victims in middle-age; of these there was a total of 27 deaths, 11 higher than the previous year, and the ratio of male to female deaths was 14.13. Although extensive research is concentrated on its cause, this is still obscure, and there are many theories of causative factors including that of excessive smoking or the excessive consumption of the less natural foods over a prolonged period. The ages at death ranged from 55 to 92 years.

Cancer has been the second highest cause of death for many years despite notable advances in modern treatment. The total number of deaths was 30, i.e. 2 less than the previous year, the majority having been amongst the elderly or aged. Having regard to the latent and insidious nature of the disease, procrastination by patients many of whom are becoming senile, is a common factor associated with late diagnosis.

Cancer of the Lung, however, like Coronary Thrombosis, claims many victims in middle age and it is possible that excessive smoking is a common causative factor of both and it may also be significant that the deaths invariably predominate in males; for example, all the five deaths registered were male, as were the four in the previous year, and the pattern is similar in other Districts. The ages at death ranged from 60 to 83 years.

Pneumonia was the cause of 18 deaths, but the majority were terminal pneumonias in the Chronic Sick Hospital, as were similarly the nine deaths from Chronic Bronchitis.

There was no exceptional mortality amongst the other causes of death and there was no death due to the Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases

Apart from a moderate epidemic of Measles, the number of Infectious Diseases notified throughout the year was small.

Measles

Two hundred and twenty cases were notified and it is impracticable to prevent its spread amongst school-children, as the invasive phase is confused with the common cold by parents when the disease is most infectious and before the tell-tale rash appears.

Fortunately its serious complications viz. Broncho-pneumonia, Acute Otitis Media, and Acute Encephalitis in that order of frequency, are comparatively rare, although it would appear that the latter is becoming more frequent in recent years.

Scarlet Fever

Only five sporadic cases were notified. This disease is today invariably mild and the serious complications such as Acute Nephritis, Endocarditis and Suppurative Otitis Media of former years are seldom seen. Patients are usually only admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for social reasons as for example when it is necessary to prevent the spread of the infection to other members of a crowded family.

Whooping Cough

Only eight cases of this distressful and often serious childhood infection were notified and it is probably that this is due to the preventive vaccination of infants which is being carried through at the Child Welfare Clinics and in the family Practitioners' Surgeries. If this eventually proves to be established, another formidable milestone in the history of infection, will have been passed by Medical Science.

Sonne Dysentery

Two related cases were notified, but the source of infection was unknown.

Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and other Notifiable Diseases

None of these was notified. Diphtheria immunisation has proved to be of inestimable value in the prevention of the disease, and similarly it would seem that Poliomyelitis vaccination is meeting with equal success; for example no case has occurred amongst those vaccinated since the inception of the scheme in 1956/57, nor indeed has there been a single outbreak.

Tuberculosis

Only one case was notified which is gratifying to record. There was none in the 15 to 24 age-group which denotes a very favourable trend as prior to around 1950 this age-group contained the majority of notifications, and it would appear that there is no reservoir of infection in any of the Parishes.

The Mass Radiography Service has been contributing valuable assistance towards the prevention of the disease by discovering latent or overt cases of infection who would have probably infected many others.

B.C.G. vaccination which is offered to School Leavers should be another valuable contributory factor towards the final elimination of a disease which has plagued man for Centuries.

It is also gratifying to record that there were no cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis which is a general index of the safety of the milk and meat supplies from contagion by the Bovine Bacillus which in by-gone years has caused innumerable cases of death or disability and deformity.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Department and also the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford,
Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1960

Area:- 39,453 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	10,500
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Book	...	...	...	3,539
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£104,003
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£400

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

West Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are only a few light industries. The Council has been a progressive Housing Authority, having built 713 post-war houses and altogether own 805 houses. Generally social conditions are excellent.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>West Ashford Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	155	88	67	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.76 (Adjusted rate) 15.50	17.1
(a) Legitimate	145	82	63			
(b) Illegitimate	10	6	4			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	6.41	19.7
(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and still births</u>	156	88	68			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	167	82	85	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	15.90 (Adjusted rate) 10.49	11.5
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	12.90	26.7
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 leg- itimate live births	13.10	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	-	
(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate births per cent of total live births</u>					6.45%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					30	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					-	
Deaths from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Measles	...	...	220
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	21
Dysentery	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEST ASHFORD RURAL

DISTRICT DURING 1960

ALL CAUSES				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
				82	85
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	-	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	5	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	10	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	12	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	14	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	12	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	7	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	6	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1960

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	50	12	5
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				

There was one death from Tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1960

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1960, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1946).

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1956 - 1960	3	27	40	25	24	90	98	66	72	131	97	92	107	92	51	1015
1955 or earlier	109	111	98	96	106	46	39	55	47	9	-	-	-	-	-	715

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1960

The following table gives (A) the number of second injections and (B) the number of third injections given during the year ended 31st December, 1960.

(A)	14	87	14	3	4	5	-	1	4	2	-	1	3	-	2	2	5	2	63	262	15	489
(B)	-	30	74	26	21	29	17	20	24	26	27	20	20	25	12	14	7	29	317	49	36	824
BORN	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1933 1942	Before 1933	Others	Total

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation
and Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1960

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary	Revaccination	Primary
1960	51	-	45	-	50
1959	78	-	48	-	82
1958	7	1	2	-	5
1957	4	-	-	-	2
1956	4	1	2	-	3
1955	1	55	2	-	-
1954	1	19	-	-	1
1953	-	-	-	-	-
1952	1	3	1	-	1
1951	-	1	-	-	-
1950	-	2	-	-	-
1949	-	3	-	-	-
1948	-	1	1	-	-
1947	1	3	-	-	1
1946	-	-	-	-	-
Before 1946	-	-	3	-	-
Total	148	89	104	-	145

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

Details of Survey carried out during April/May, 1960

MINIATURE FILMS TAKEN

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
538	625	1,163

ATTENDING MASS RADIOGRAPHY
FOR THE FIRST TIME

<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
790	67.9%

RESULTS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Inactive Tuberculosis	7	3	10
Cancer of Lung	-	-	-

Public Health Department,
2 Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

To the Chairman and Members of the
West Ashford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fourth annual report on the sanitary circumstances in the rural district for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

Staff

Senior Public Health Inspector:

Arthur H. Hayes, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., S.R.N.

Additional Public Health Inspector: (Part time)

R.W.Wright, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

Rodent Operator:

Miss A. Wells

Mr. A. Button

Public Cleansing:

Mr. S. Foreman (foreman) and five workmen.

Mr. T. Fright. Part time cleaner at public conveniences.

During 1960 there were no staff changes and the work of the department progressed satisfactorily throughout the year.

All aspects of sanitation and environmental hygiene received attention. The number of houses condemned and closed has now reached fifty since 1956. The speed of action under Housing Act procedure is commensurate with the ability to re-house the tenants.

The issue by the Ministry of the "List of Buildings of Architectural Merit or Historic Interest" indicates that many of our village properties are listed, though their continued use as rented premises provides problems when assessing their value when balanced with sanitary defects.

Inspections of meat and slaughterhouses was maintained at the now recognised level of 100%, although this entailed much late night and weekend inspection.

During the year the slaughterhouse report was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Minister was pleased to appoint 1st October, 1961 as the appointed day for closure of all slaughterhouses in the area not conforming to the new regulations. The provision of a modern abattoir at Charing is proceeding satisfactorily. This new building together with the enlarged and modernised slaughterhouse at Pluckley will ensure first class handling of meat and give up-to-date facilities for the detection of disease. The remaining two slaughterhouses will be closed.

The completion and opening of the Council's caravan site for gypsies and the like has given for the first time in England a really altruistic approach in dealing with these peoples. To date the minor problems which have presented themselves have been dealt with satisfactorily.

Other comments and statistics on the various facets of the work undertaken by the department are given under the appropriate headings.

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The main supply of the district is undertaken by the Mid Kent Water Company. Collection is from the chalk hills at Charing by means of artesian wells, stored in high level reservoir tanks and distributed by gravity.

The problem of supplying water to the gypsy site was met by laying a new three inch main. A nearby hydraulic ram serving estate property was found to be contaminated at source and negotiations are in hand to replace it by private mains.

	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw water (Mid Kent) tested by analyst for county of Surrey.	6	6	-
Treated water (Mid Kent) chemical-analysis.	8	8	-
Private sources piped to dwellings.	21	1	20

The analyst's report on Mid Kent treated water is as follows.

Analysis per million parts:-

Total solids dried at 180°		250.00
Chlorine present as chloride		22.50
Ammonia free and residual		0.00
Nitrate of nitrogen		8.60
Nitrite of nitrogen		0.00
Oxygen absorbed from	4 hours	0.01
	15 mins.	0.00
Hardness as CaCO ₃	Temporary	101.00
	Permanent	60.00
Iron		absent
Other metals		absent
Alkalinity		101.00
Free carbon dioxide as CO ₂		55.00
Residual chlorine		.05
Bacteria organisms of the coliform group	Nil in 100 M.L.	
Streptococci	Nil in 100 M.L.	
Cl. Welchii	Nil in 100 M.L.	

Remarks

This water is of good organic purity, attractive in appearance and free from contaminating metals.

The bacterial condition of the water is excellent as judged by this examination, the water is pure and wholesome and suitable for the public supply.

Mid Kent water connection during 1960	47
Houses supplied by Mid Kent Water Company	3403
Houses supplied by private sources, wells and other means.	109
Total houses in West Ashford R.D.	3559

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Houses Supplied</u>
Bethersden	377
Charing	743
Egerton	237
Great Chart	264
Hothfield	253
Kingsnorth	309
Little Chart	101
Pluckley	319
Shadoxhurst	210
Smarden	336
Westwell	<u>254</u>
	3403

(2) DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year work was nearly completed on improvements to Bethersden and Egerton disposal plants, and the latter village had a small sewer extension completed.

Authority is still awaited for the commencement of the scheme to link both Charing and Charing Heath with a combined drainage scheme, and for new treatment and outfall works at Charing.

Plans are being prepared to provide main drainage for Little Chart, Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst.

School Sanitation

Again it must be reported that Egerton Primary School still continues with its outdated trough closet system.

Except for this school the remainder of the schools have generally satisfactory systems. Charing has toilet blocks inside the school with hot and cold sprinkler taps and supply of paper and linen towels.

Public Conveniences

The only public conveniences are sited at Charing adjacent the bus connection stop. Little or no damage has been done to the structure but attempts have been made to open the money locks on the w.c. doors.

Cesspool Emptying

The overall cost of cesspool emptying has this year decreased by approximately £60. The increase in the cost of

Council property is occasioned by the purchase and modernisation of old properties which have necessitated more frequent emptyings. Before acquisition by the Council the figures would have been shown in the private dwellings column. A large decrease can be expected when the Charing/Charing Heath drainage scheme is completed.

The emptying contractor has carried out the service in a commendable manner and for the major part of the year kept the interval between receiving the order and putting the work into execution down to about ten days. Very wet weather, flooding and sickness increased the waiting period to 3/4 weeks during the winter.

Properties Serviced			
Private	1960	1170	£1744. 0. 0
	1959	1222	£1927. 5. 6
Council	1960	123	£ 452. 0. 0
	1959	93	£ 357.18. 9
Total	1960	1293	£2226. 0. 0
	1959	1315	£2285. 4. 3

(3) FOOD and DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

(a) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

Number of licensed slaughterhouses 4
 Number of visits to inspect meat 490

With the acceptance of the Council's report on slaughtering facilities the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has appointed 1st October, 1961 as the day when all slaughterhouse licences will be revoked save those that have been brought up to the standard laid down in the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1959, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1959.

This area will retain one village slaughterhouse (modernised) and an up-to-date abattoir is in course of construction to replace the obsolete and overcrowded premises at Charing. The others are closing voluntarily.

At Charing the new buildings will be run by private enterprise and will cater for local butchers as well as doing much export trade to the surrounding areas and London shops. Already two special meat carriers transport meat to London nightly. The now generally accepted 100% meat inspection has been maintained throughout the year although entailing late evening and weekend inspections.

From the following table it will be seen that tuberculosis is only very rarely found, thus proving the efficiency of the veterinary work in the field. None of the tuberculosis discovered came from Kent farms.

The incidence of cysticercosis bovis (tapeworm in man) increased and was isolated in nine bovine carcasses.

The amount of condemned meat increased by half a ton but the loss of offal through disease was slightly less.

<u>Condemned Meat - Table of Diseases</u>			<u>Meat</u>	<u>Offal</u>
Cow carcase	Gen. tuberculosis		552	
Cow carcase	Oedema & emaciation		365	
Cow carcase	Septicaema		553	
31 Sheep carcasses	Oedema & emaciation		1012	
13 Sheep carcasses	Emaciation		432	
Sheep carcase	Moribund		47	
Sheep carcase	Fevered		95	
Sheep carcase	Injuries		60	
Pig carcase	Gen. tuberculosis		58	
6 Pigs heads	Tuberculosis		51	
Part beasts ribs	Bruising		30	
Calf ribs, flank & leg	Bruising		13	
7 Sheep legs	Injuries and bruising		45½	
Edible offal				<u>4993</u>
			3318½	4993
Total condemned in slaughterhouse				

8311½ lb. = 3 ton. 14 cwt. 23½ lb.

Miscellaneous foodstuffs condemned in shops and stores:

		cwt.	qtr.	lb.
French washed carrots	Unsound	8	1	12
English pork	Bone abscess			12
Edible offal	Decomposed			38
Smoked haddock fillets	Decomposed			<u>14</u>
		8	3	20

Total foodstuffs condemned: 4 ton. 3 cwt. 0 qtr. 15½ lb.

Figures in brackets refer to 1959.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected	730 (607)	439 (373)	1059 (814)	12417 (15963)	568 (548)	15213 (18305)
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	- (-)	2 (-)	- (-)	48 (76)	- (1)	50 (77)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	87 (123)	114 (106)	1 (4)	301 (719)	12 (13)	515 (965)
% Of the num- ber inspected affected with diseases other than T.B.	12 (20.2)	25.9 (28.4)	.009 (.49)	2.8 (4.9)	2.1 (2.5)	
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1 (3)	1 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	6 (5)	8 (9)
% Of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.139 (.49)	.48 (.29)	- (-)	- (-)	1.2 (.9)	
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8 (2)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	9 (2)
Carcases sub- mitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	--	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

(b) Knackers Yards (Offensive Trade)

One knackers yard is licensed in the area. Six visits were paid to the premises and on each occasion the work was being carried out in a clean and satisfactory manner.

The Meat Staining Regulations were being obeyed and all meat was properly treated before leaving the premises.

(c) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

The following table indicates the number of the various types of food premises in the area.

Licensed premises including clubs	32
Cafes and restaurants	9
Butchers shops	10
Grocers and general shops	39
Confectioners	<u>5</u>

95

During the year eighty five visits of inspection were made.

Licensed Premises

Inspections made at the above premises showed that a high standard of hygiene was maintained. Where cellars were part of the inns, these were clean and walls whitewashed. The public are generally requiring a higher standard of hygiene and landlords are responding by the provision of well protected food display stands for their snacks. Brewers are carrying out a round of general improvements and building toilet blocks within the buildings and abolishing the yard conveniences. To date, all modernisation plans have shown hand basins with running water, towels and soap for the customers.

Restaurants

During 1960 only one complaint was received of cracked china ware and general untidiness. This was at a business catering for coach passengers but before action could be taken the premises were closed. This seasonal catering needs close watching for when in operation the premises are packed and slovenly practices due to rush and overcrowding can creep in.

Butchers and Grocers Shops

Visits to this class of food premises have been sporadic but each occasion was used for a pep talk on rotation of stock to avoid old foods becoming weevil ridden or mouldy.

There has been good co-operation from all traders.

Bakehouses

There are only four bakehouses within the district and only two of these employ additional labour to the owners' families.

The registers were kept up to date and the decorations were renewed at six monthly intervals.

Milk Supplies

Number of registered distributors of milk is 10

1960 saw the end of licensing by local authorities of dairies and retailers. This duty has been taken over by the County Council as also has the sampling of milk.

All milk sold in the district is now prepacked from bottling plants outside the area and the dairies are only used as reception centres.

No complaints were received of dirty milk or containers.

Ice Cream

Number of registered premises is 47

All ice cream sold from shops is the pre-wrapped variety. Bulk ice cream is only dispensed at hotels as part of the meals service.

(4) HOUSING

Slowly the unfit and insanitary houses are being represented for closure and demolition. Four houses were represented as being unfit for habitation and unable to be repaired at a reasonable cost.

Houses considered under section 16 Housing Act 1957	4
Houses recommended for demolition	1
Houses recommended to be closed	3
Houses demolished	12

Owing to pressure of other work it was found to be impossible to carry out further full housing inspections for demolition proceedings.

Improvement Grants

During 1960 even more applications were received for improvement and modernisation of properties. Of the 14 projects completed 5 were for rented properties, one for a tied cottage and 8 for owner occupiers

The cost of improvements per house averaged at approximately £289, well below the ceiling of the Ministry's maximum £400.

Use of the Standard Grant was made by four householders.

Discretionary Grants

Number of preliminary grants approved in principle	47
Number of grants proceeded with	22
Number of grants completed in 1960	14
Total grant aid given in 1960	£4045.3.0

Standard Grants

Number of applications approved	14
Number of schemes completed	4
Total grant aid given in 1960	£424.10.0.

Inspections

The number and character of housing inspections carried out in accordance with housing is as follows:-

Number of dwellings inspected on complaint	42
Number of dwellings reinspected on service of notice.	92
Number of informal notices served	10
Number of informal notices complied	6
Number of statutory notices served	2
Number of statutory notices complied	1
Number of dwellings inspected and recorded	4

Through the inspection of old properties, the Council was enabled to buy a group of eight cottages cheaply, and plans are being prepared for the redevelopment of the site.

The following table sets out the sanitary work effected to existing premises during the year under review.

W.C. provided	12
Wash basins provided	12
Sinks provided	11
Hot water systems provided	12
Baths provided	12
Drains cleansed/repaired	5

Inspection chambers provided/repaired	20
Roofs repaired	6
Pail closets converted/demolished	7
Brickwork of walls repaired	1
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	13
Floors and staircases repaired/renewed	11
Bedding cleansed/destroyed	3
Food stores provided/renewed	18
Number of premises connected to main sewers	5
Number of premises connected to cesspools/ septic tanks	13
Number of premises disinfested/disinfected	75
Number of inspections of all kinds	1325

Council Housing Policy

Conforming with Ministry instruction the housing programme was exclusively centred around the provision of "Old Peoples" bungalows and the rehousing of tenants of condemned properties together with some families from the housing list, and also gypsy families as occasional vacancies occurred.

Twenty eight bungalows were allocated to the Council for the 1960 programme and a further twelve were offered later in the year.

Nineteen dwellings were completed during the year, and thirty two families rehoused.

Applicants on the housing list remains at approximately one hundred.

(5) RODENT CONTROL

For this service the Council employs a full time operator whose work is divided between the statutory duties of survey work and sewer treatments, and that of treatments to domestic, business and farm premises.

Practically all farmers and owners of business premises take advantage of the Council's repayment eradication service. £46.3.6 was recovered from these treatments. The relationship between Council officials and the various owners is cordial. Block treatments involving forty two dwellings were executed. Regular survey and treatments of sewers, sewage works and tips were carried out.

	Council Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural Properties	Business & any Other
Total no. of properties	11	3559	343	138
Surveyed	11	146	168	11
Infestations Major Minor	1 10	- 74	7 28	- 6

(6) DISINFECTION and DISINFESTATION

The treatment of premises for flying and crawling pests was carried out throughout the year, but mostly during the summer months. A charge of five shillings was made for the disinfestation of bee and wasp nests in houses. Cluster flies proved a nuisance in the early autumn when they migrated to certain types of dwellings with exposed south aspect walls.

Treatments are as under:-

	Private Houses	Council Houses	Total
Fleas	5	2	7
Flies	11	13	24
Bees	7	-	7
Wasps	11	10	21
Beetles	20	1	21
Ants	7	8	15
Totals	61	34	95

(7) REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates two S/D fore and aft tippers to maintain this service. Weekly collection is given to the built up areas and fortnightly clearance in the very rural areas. The collection of all kinds of household unwanted articles has halted the spoilation of the countryside by the dumping of unwieldy articles such as mattresses, bedsteads etc. Householders are being continually reminded of the value of segregating saleable salvage.

Tips

Tipping is by means of crude dumping and filling of an old stone quarry. This system though to be deplored has been in operation for many years, and short of very expensive measures and the use of mechanical equipment the tip is too far advanced to convert to the more acceptable controlled tipping. The tip is on fire and this in itself reduces the deposited combustible matter to a more manageable proportion and the absence of large food stores in the area keeps the putrescible matter to a low level.

Salvage

Salvage collection is still maintained in a single operation with the house refuse collection, and forms a valuable income to the Council. Paper and paper products are taken by the Reed Paper Group, whilst rags and metals are purchased by a local scrap dealer.

The work of baling and segregation has been made more congenial by the use of the new premises. Work now progresses with a fair amount of comfort and warmth.

Bonus payment is made to the collectors for all tonnage over an agreed minimum. This ensures that everything saleable is kept for the benefit of the Council and not sold "on the side" by operatives. The team engaged in public cleansing is held in high regard by the majority of the ratepayers.

Reference to the following table shows a further increase in the salvage receipts and the workmen can be congratulated on their effort.

	Tons	Cwts.	£ s. d.
Mixed waste papers and cardboard	181 (155	15 18 $\frac{3}{4}$)	1402. 7. 9 (1174. 1. 6) 1959
Old metal, rags etc.			118. 7. 8 (108. 5. 6) 1959
Totals			1520.15. 5 (1282. 7. 0) 1959

(8) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

West Ashford Rural District Council Caravan Site

1960 saw the completion and opening of the Ninn Lane caravan site. The tenants moved in in an orderly manner and so far only minor troubles have occurred which have been remedied. The general feeling of the site users is one of gratitude and they are making good use of the amenities provided. Owing to the wet season the site is looking rough and damp but with grass sowing and tree planting in the spring a different appearance will be presented. There is very little litter about, and the camp warden keeps the sanitary block clean. Children are attending the village school and the caravan site appears to present a happy and contented community. According to family need and conduct the Council hopes to eventually house the caravan dwellers.

(9) FACTORY ADMINISTRATION

There are only two factories, a paper mill and a brick-works that employ more than ten persons.

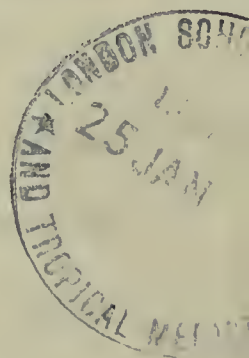
Number of Factories in Register

Factories (mechanical power)	33
Factories (no mechanical power)	6

Number of Inspections

Factories (mechanical power including bakehouses)	33
Factories (no mechanical power)	2

Number of written notices	Nil
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(10) SHOPS ACT 1950

No routine inspections were made under section 38 (young peoples employed) but shops were inspected for reasons of Food and Drugs Act and Hygiene Regulations.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR H. HAYES

Senior Public Health Inspector